



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
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U Toronto's Meric S. Gertler to be 16th President of the University of Toronto: Meric S. Gertler will become 16th President of the University of Toronto for a five-year term, effective on a date to be determined but not later than December 31, 2013. Gertler has been Dean of the University's Faculty of Arts and Science since 2008. He joined the Faculty as an assistant professor in the Department of Geography and Program in Planning in 1983 after receiving his doctorate from Harvard University. A Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada and a member of the Academy of Social Sciences in the UK, he is the author, co-author or co-editor of more than 80 scholarly publications, and six books. Since 1999, Gertler has held the Goldring Chair in Canadian Studies in University College and the Department of Geography. An internationally-recognized urban theorist, his academic work focuses on the economies of cities, the urban foundations of innovation, and the role of creativity, culture and diversity in urban life. In May 2012, he was awarded an honorary doctor of philosophy from Lund University, Sweden for his exceptional contributions to the fields of economic geography and regional development.

U Fraser Valley geographers welcome first ever post-doctoral fellows: Drs Denver Nixon and Christina Neudorf are the first two post-doctoral fellows ever at UFV. A post-doctoral fellow is a researcher who, after completing their PhD, partners with an institution to continue on specialized research projects. Dr. Nixon will be working on agricultural land use issues with Dr. Lenore Newman, the Canada Research Chair for Food Security and Environment. Dr. Neudorf is working with Dr. Olav Lian in the UFV Luminescence Dating Laboratory and as part of research being conducted on BC's Central Coast with the Hakai Institute. Dr. Neudorf has earned the prestigious Hakai Scholar, as part of her post-doctoral fellowship. [UFV Geography News](#)

U Toronto PhD candidate John Paul Catungal awarded Killam Postdoctoral Research Fellowship by UBC: John Paul (JP) Catungal, PhD candidate in Geography, has been awarded a two-year Killam Postdoctoral Research Fellowship by the University of British Columbia. He will be based in the Institute for Gender, Race, Sexuality and Social Justice, where he will pursue research on the place of the "straight ally" in Canadian LGBTQ politics. He will be mentored and supervised jointly by Mary Bryson, Chair of the Institute, and Geraldine Pratt, Professor of Geography and Associate Faculty Member of the Institute. JP anticipates starting his fellowship in November 2013.

U Saskatchewan postdoctoral fellow Ryan Bullock launches book at Community Forestry Conference:

First Nations, government and industry representatives, community forest practitioners, NGOs and researchers from across Canada met in Sault Ste Marie, Ontario January 16-18 to build on the startling growth of Canadian community forestry and to develop a national network for analysis and policy engagement. "NORDIK Institute and the Northern Ontario Sustainable Communities Partnership (NOSCP). At the conference Ryan Bullock launched his new book [Community Forestry: Local Values, Conflict and Forest Governance](#) (Cambridge University Press). "People in this room have contributed a lot to my book and to building community forestry in Canada," he said. "My research shows that it is the politicians and the bureaucrats who know the least about what is coming at them. It will be a struggle, but I expect to see a lot of change in the next few years." [Nordik Institute](#)

UBC Geography to Renew the Geographic Information Centre: Nearly 2.3 million aerial photographs, taken repeatedly since the early 1930s, provide a consistent chronology of BC's geographic history. In April 2010 the closure of the Provincial Air Photo Warehouse, which housed the collection, has resulted in a deficit of vital information. UBC seeks to make the premier collection of aerial photographs available to the public. To accomplish this goal, the University plans to renovate and expand its Geographic Information Centre (GIC) in order to preserve this remarkably rich resource for students, scholars and professionals. Scheduled for completion in summer 2013, the GIC will safely house this unique aerial photograph collection and make the visual history of BC easily accessible. Fundraising Goal: \$400,000. [UBC Geography News](#)

U Western's Gordon McBean interviewed by CBC on muzzling of Canadian scientists: Gordon McBean was recently interviewed by Michael Enright on the CBC Sunday Edition whether Ottawa is muzzling its scientists. The controversy has attracted international attention. An editorial in the prestigious science journal Nature called for Canada's government to free its scientists to speak to the press. In contrast to Canada, the United States government is moving faster and further on public disclosure. The Administration's top science adviser said last week: "Americans should have easy access to the results of the research they support; the logic behind enhanced access is plain." Many federal agencies not only allow government scientists to speak freely to the media, but actively encourage such interaction. Michael Enright talked with Canadian climatologist Gordon McBean, who had just returned from an international meeting in Brazil, where he was quizzed by bewildered scientists about what on earth is happening in Canada. Dr. McBean is a professor at Western University in London, Ontario, and chair for policy in the Institute for Catastrophic Loss Reduction. From 1994 to 2000, he was assistant deputy minister at Environment Canada. He is also president-elect of the International Council for Science, a major non-governmental organization that brings scientists together from around the world. [CBC Radio](#) | [Listen](#)



Twitter feeds from Canadian geography departments

[@UVic Geog](#) - Department of Geography, University of Victoria

[@UBCgeog](#) - Department of Geography, University of British Columbia

[@UNBCGeography](#) - Geography Program, University of Northern British Columbia

[@UWGeography](#) - Department of Geography, University of Winnipeg

[@SGESmedia](#) - School of Geography and Earth Sciences, McMaster University

[@GPEConcordia](#) - Department of Geography, Planning and Environment, Concordia University

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Rheannon N. Brooks, Terry D. Prowse and Ian J. O'Connell. 2013. [Quantifying Northern-Hemisphere freshwater ice](#). Geophysical Research Letters. DOI: 10.1002/grl.50238

Garry K. C. Clarke, Faron S. Anslow, Alexander H. Jarosch, Valentina Radić, Brian Menounos, Tobias Bolch and Etienne Berthier. 2012. [Ice volume and subglacial topography for western Canadian glaciers from mass balance fields, thinning rates, and a bed stress model](#). Journal of Climate. doi:<http://dx.doi.org/10.1175/JCLI-D-12-00513.1>

Kristin M. Grant, Dan L. Johnson, David V. Hildebrand and Derek R. Peddle. 2012. [Quantifying biomass production on rangeland in southern Alberta using SPOT imagery](#). Canadian Journal of Remote Sensing 38:695-708.

Ryan Hackett. 2013. [From government to governance? Forest certification and crisis displacement in Ontario, Canada](#). Journal of Rural Studies 30:120–129.

D.A. McFarlane, M. Buchroithner, J. Lundberg, C. Petters, W. Roberts and G. Van Rentergen. 2013. [Integrated three-dimensional laser scanning and autonomous drone surface- photogrammetry at Gomantong Caves, Sabah, Malaysia](#). 16th International Congress of Speleology, July 2013.

Suzanne E. Mills and Tyler C. McCreary. 2013. [Negotiating neoliberal empowerment: Aboriginal people, educational restructuring, and academic labour in the north of British Columbia, Canada](#). Antipode. DOI: 10.1111/anti.12008

Olivier Bahn, Mathilde Marcy, Kathleen Vaillancour and Jean-Philippe Waau. 2013. [Electrication of the Canadian Road Transportation Sector: A 2050 Outlook with TIMES-Canada](#). Les Cahiers du GERAD G-2013-01.

Michelle Sawka, Andrew A. Millward, Janet Mckay and Misha Sarkovich. 2013. [Growing summer energy conservation through residential tree planting](#). Landscape and Urban Planning 113:1–9.

Joseph Taabazuing, Frederick Armah, Jenna Dixon and Isaac Luginaah. 2013. [The relationship between traditional authorities and decentralized structures in Ghana: Conflicting roles or a struggle for power and legitimacy](#). International Journal of Development and Conflict. DOI:10.1142/S2010269012500172

T.J. Williams and W.L. Quinton. 2013. [Modelling incoming radiation on a linear disturbance and its impact on the ground thermal regime in discontinuous permafrost](#). Hydrological Processes. DOI: 10.1002/hyp.9792

Other “Geographical” News

A new look at urbanization's environmental impact: A research team has developed a technique for quick, simple and cost-effective mapping of worldwide urban growth and its environmental impact. The team combines satellite images from the present and past to create new pictures that reveal the difference a decade or more of growth makes in an urban region. From these images, they can calculate the impact on the environment. [ScienceDaily](#)

Canadian universities slip in world reputation rankings: London-based Times Higher Education's third annual World Reputation Rankings were released today and there are three Canadian schools on the top 100 list. They are the same three schools as last year, but two of them are ranked lower. The University of British Columbia and McGill University were tied for 25th in 2012 but fell to a 31st place tie in 2013. The University of Toronto maintained its spot at 16th on the list. The big story is Australia, with six schools in the top 100—twice as many as Canada despite a smaller population. Macleans.ca

Global warming will open unexpected new shipping routes in Arctic: Shipping lanes through the Arctic Ocean won't put the Suez and Panama canals out of business anytime soon, but global warming will make these frigid routes much more accessible than ever imagined by melting an unprecedented amount of sea ice during the late summer. By mid-century, even ordinary shipping vessels will be able to navigate previously inaccessible parts of the Arctic Ocean, and they will not need icebreakers to blaze their path as they do today. [Science Daily](http://ScienceDaily)

Reports put postsecondary teaching in spotlight: Two recent research reports issued by the Higher Education Quality Council of Ontario have put postsecondary teaching effectiveness in the spotlight. A report into teaching-assistant training programs at Western discovered a program enhanced with significant intercultural components has a positive impact on the development of international graduate students – not only as teachers, but also as graduate students. Bridging the Gap: The Impact of the [‘Teaching in the Canadian Classroom’ Program on the Teaching Effectiveness of International Teaching Assistants](#). A second report, [The Role of New Faculty Orientations in Improving the Effectiveness of Postsecondary Teaching, Part 2: College Sector](#), called for increased collaboration and sharing of best practices between colleges and universities as well as more incentives to encourage and reward innovation in teaching and learning. This report builds on the findings of a previous study, [The Role of New Faculty Orientations in Improving the Effectiveness of University Teaching](#).

Some not so “Geographical” News



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